

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-11

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 SWF-02

CIEP-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

/110 W

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R 211650Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7869  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMCONGEN GUAYAQUIL  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3190

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: EXPORT OF LOWER QUALITY BANANAS

1. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS MANUEL CASTILLO ANNOUNCED AUGUST 20 THAT THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO REPEAL THE EXECUTIVE DECREE WHICH HAS PROHIBITED EXPORT OF SECOND QUALITY BANANAS. THE DECISION CAME IN RESPONSE TO STRONG PRESSURE FROM INDEPENDENT BANANA PRODUCERS (AGRICULTORES BANANEROS ASOCIADOS (ABA) WHO SELL THEIR FRUIT TO THE STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY. CASTILLO, IN DISCUSSING THE DECISION, OBSERVED THAT COSTA RICA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT RESTRICTS THE SALE OF SECOND QUALITY BANANAS, AND MADE THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONCERTED POLICY AMONG PRODUCING COUNTRIES NOTHING IS GAINED FROM ISOLATED PROHIBITIONS.

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2. CASTILLO ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT IS PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON A PLAN TO AID BANANA PRODUCERS, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH PLACING A PORTION OF BANANA TAX RECEIPTS IN THE FUND FOR PRICE STABILIZATION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. CASTILLO SAID HE DISCUSSED THE BANANA SUBSIDY PLAN WITH THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF BANANA PRODUCERS AND WILL MEET AUGUST 21 WITH THE AGRICULTORES BANANEROS ASOCIADOS.

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## Message Attributes

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